

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 00321 182233Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SY-05 CPR-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /044 W
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O R 182215Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9161
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0321

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), HO
SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT: COURTESY POINTS

REF: STATE 013677

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED COURTESY POINTS FOR USE WITH EACH
PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENT.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER ROBERTO PALMA GALVEZ, WHO IS BOTH A LAWYER
AND A CAREER ARMY OFFICER, HAS DEVOTED MUCH
EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT OF THE HONDURAN/EL SALVADOR
BORDER DISPUTE. HE HAS ACQUIRED CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE IN
THE HISTORY OF THE DISPUTE, AND IS PLEASED WHEN HIS KNOWLEDGE
IS RECOGNIZED. HE ACCOMPANIED THE CHIEF OF STATE TO
WASHINGTON LAST SEPTEMBER FOR THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY
SIGNING CEREMONIES AND MET THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY VANCE
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AT THAT TIME. PALMA WAS
AN OBSERVOR TO THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE CENTRAL
AMERICAN DEFENSE COUNCIL IN GUATEMALA FOR SEVERAL YEARS
(1969-76), AND ENJOYS TALKING ABOUT GUATEMALA. HE HAS
BEEN SEPARATED FROM HIS WIFE FOR SOME TIME.

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3. CHIEF OF STATE JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR CASTRO WAS VERY
PLEASED WITH THE ATTENTION HE RECEIVED WHEN HE VISITED
WASHINGTON (FOR THE FIRST TIME) LAST SEPTEMBER TO ATTEND
THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY SIGNING CEREMONIES, AND WAS
VERY IMPRESSED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. IN WASHINGTON,
HE DEPOSITED HONDURAS INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF THE

INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION, AND
ANNOUNCED (VIA A VOA INTERVIEW) A TIMETABLE FOR
ELECTIONS AND A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONALITY IN 1979.
HUSKY AND ENERGETIC, MELGAR IS FOND OF SPORTS,
PARTICULARLY SOCCER. HE TAKES CONSIDERABLE PRIDE IN
THE ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS (SECOND) WIFE,
ALBA NORA GUNERA DE MELGAR CASTRO, AN EX-TEACHER.
IN THIS CONNECTION, ON THE MORNING OF THE DAY OF YOUR
CALL ON THE CHIEF OF STATE, THE HONDURAN CHAPTER OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION WILL PRESENT
MRS. MELGAR WITH A DIPLOMA HONORING HER FOR HER
WORK AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL JUNTA FOR SOCIAL
WELFARE, AND WE SUGGEST ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN
EXTEND HIS CONGRATULATIONS DURING HIS CALL.
JARAMILLO

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